

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Matthew J. Jolley et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/905,561

FILED: July 13, 2001

FOR: PATTERN GENERATION METHOD
AND APPARATUS USING CACHED CELLS
OF HIERARCHICAL DATA

§ GROUP ART UNIT: 2881
§
§ EXAMINER: K. Fernandez
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§ Attorney Docket No.:
§ AM-5850

Date: August 27, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Mail Stop Box Non-Fee Amendment
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants are responding to the Restriction Requirement dated July 1, 2003 and are including this Preliminary Amendment "A" for purposes of correcting a formality error in the application. The present patent application was not drafted by applicants' present attorney. Upon review of the application for purposes of responding to the Restriction Requirement, applicants' present attorney discovered that portions of the disclosure which should be at the beginning of the "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments" is present in the "Background of the Invention". Although it is clear that this subject matter is considered by the applicants to be part

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. EU627418579US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: August 27, 2003


Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

of the invention, legal issues may arise in the future regarding this subject matter if the correction is not made at this time.

For example, an indication that disclosure of portions of the invention is presently in the “Background of the Invention” section at Pages 3 - 7 of the application include:

Page 3, lines 9 - 10: “The pattern generation system of the invention receives raw image data and generates beam control data in response thereto . . .”

Page 3, lines 19 - 21: “In one example, the pattern generation system of the invention receives and rasterizes a set of hierarchical image data (indicative of a two-dimensional bit map) to generate. . .”

Page 3, lines 24 - 25: “One aspect of the inventive method is a method for generating beam control data in response to hierarchical image data. In a class of preferred embodiments, the invention rasterizes hierarchical image data . . .”

Page 5, lines 6 - 7: “The inventors have recognized that it would be desirable to implement such a design as a hierarchical design . . .”

Page 6, lines 8 - 10: “The inventors have recognized that it is therefore desirable to reduce the data volume that must be transferred . . .”

Page 6, lines 22 - 23: “The graphics engine thus inflates the compressed data transferred to it in accordance with the invention, typically with a large inflation factor . . .”

Page 6, lines 27 - 29: “More specifically, the present invention decreases the volume of image data that must be transferred to a graphics engine (e.g., raster engine) by determining a set of N-level hierarchical image data where N is greater than . . .”

Page 7, lines 8 - 10: "In preferred embodiments, the beam control data is in pixel format, but it can alternatively be in vector format."

The present Preliminary Amendment "A" deletes subject matter which does not belong in the "Background of the Invention" section of the application and inserts this subject matter into the "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments" section of the application. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows: